

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Dec. 15, 2005

Contact: Jill Warren Lucas
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 65 NEW JOBS IN CHATHAM COUNTY ***\$200,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps ATC Panels Expand***

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that ATC Panels, makers of wood panel products, will expand its facility in Moncure creating 65 new jobs and investing \$25.5 million over the next three years. The expansion was made possible in part by a \$200,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

“ATC Panels’ decision to expand here in Moncure will provide 65 good-paying jobs for 65 hardworking North Carolina families,” said Easley. “We are making the right investments in education and infrastructure necessary to maintain our No. 1 ranked business climate.”

ATC Panels, a subsidiary of Aconcagua Holdings, is a leading supplier of composite wood panel products, including particleboard and medium-density fiberboard. The company’s facility in Moncure currently has 112 employees. While wages will vary, the expected average weekly wage of the new jobs is \$652 plus benefits, which is higher than the Chatham County average weekly wage of \$520.

“This facility was selected for expansion because it is close to our markets, with a good transportation network and access to an available and educated workforce,” said Fito Salman, chief financial officer of ATC Panels.

“I am delighted for the prospects of enhanced economic development in Moncure,” said Sen. Bob Atwater (D-Chatham, Durham, Lee). “That is an area of emphasis for us, and this grant will go a long way toward fulfilling our long-range plans for the area.”

Rep. Joe Hackney (D-Chatham, Moore, Orange) agreed. “I am very pleased that the state is able to assist in creating jobs for Chatham County at a time when we have experienced job loss.”

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in recruiting and expanding quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, Chatham County and Progress Energy.

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166